



countdown

April 24, 2007

Vol. 12, No. 30

Tank foam repair moves Atlantis' rollout to May 12



◆ **Shuttle Update:** In high bay No. 1 of the Vehicle Assembly Building, technicians and engineers continue repairing foam on the hail-damaged STS-117 external fuel tank, ET-124. The poured foam repairs are nearly complete, and technicians are trimming and sanding repair sites.

Spray foam repairs are scheduled to begin this week. Due to the amount of work remaining, the rollout of Atlantis to the launch pad has been rescheduled for May 12. This six-day change should not affect the June 8 target launch date.

Preparations are complete for the removal of Atlantis' three main engines to inspect for flow liner contamination. Engine removal is scheduled to begin this week. This work can be accomplished within the time frame of the tank repair.

Two of **Endeavour's** three orbiter main engines have been inspected and reinstalled. All three engines were removed last week to allow for flow liner contaminant inspections and no contamination was found. The orbiter boom sensor system, which was removed for mechanical repairs on the boom pedestals, was reinstalled last week. The system and the shuttle arm were deployed April 20, and technicians will install the sensor packs in the boom. The nose landing gear wheel/tire assembly was installed last week, and the steering and brake tests are complete.

In Orbiter Processing Facility bay No. 3, water spray boiler system servicing and checkout continues on **Discovery**. Wire tray closeouts in the midbody are ongoing and cargo bay closeouts are

under way. The forward reaction control system was delivered to the facility's bay No. 3 April 20 and will be installed this week. Functional testing on all three fuel cells is complete. Inspections of the main propulsion system flow liners are finished.

◆ **ISS Update:** Crew members held a ceremony April 17 marking the change of command of the station from Expedition 14 Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria to Expedition 15 Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin. Yurchikhin and flight engineers Oleg Kotov and Suni Williams are now officially entrenched on board the station. Williams, who has served as an Expedition 14 crew member since December, will provide Expedition 15 with an experienced flight engineer for the early part of its mission.

On April 16, Williams became the first person to run a marathon in space. Williams was an official entrant in the Boston Marathon and ran the 26.2-mile race on a station treadmill in the Zvezda module, circling Earth at least twice in the process. She completed her marathon with an official time of 4:23:10.

For about 90 minutes, Lopez-Alegria completed his final session with the Anomalous Long-Term Effects in Astronauts' Center Nervous System, experiment, known as ALTEA, which investigates the phenomenon of crew members seeing flashes of light while in orbit. Using an instrumented helmet, the experiment measures the cosmic radiation that passes through a crew member's head, brain activity and visual perception. ALTEA should help researchers better understand what levels of cosmic radia-

Expedition 15 takes over on space station

tion crew members are exposed to and develop countermeasures for future long-duration spaceflights.

■ **Book Fair** — The NASA Exchange Spring Book Fair that began last week continues today in the SSPF Café and Wednesday through Friday in the MFF Café. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ **Energy-Hog Contest Winners** — The SGS Energy Management Office announced that the winning entries for the two new refrigerator contests are the Wyle Labs office in K7-468/CCF Room 200 (Property Custodian Ricky Conner) and the InDyne office in M6-0399/Room 1511K (Property Custodian Cheryl Patronsky). The new Energy Star refrigerator for the Wyle Labs office replaces a 50-year-old Hotpoint. The new Energy Star refrigerator for the InDyne office area replaces a 1979 Sears Coldspot.

■ **KSC Rehabworks Educational Lecture Series No. 4** — The latest topic is "We've Got Your Back: Key Facts About Common Spine Injuries." Learn the answers to questions such as "What is a herniated disc?" "Why do I have pain radiating down my legs?" "What exercises should I do for my back?" and more. The lecture will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday in OSB II/Room 3124.

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